

ISSUES & EVENTS

October 15, 1970, Volume 2, number 5

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Hubert Guindon, a full professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and an instructor in the Department's seminar on French Canadian society, has published several articles on Quebec, concerning the bureaucratic revolution, social unrest and nationalism. Below, he discusses the implications of the FLQ abductions of British Trade Commissioner James Cross and Labour and Immigration Minister Pierre Laporte.

the politics of abduction

implications

Do you think the kidnappings have forced the separatist movement underground?

That's something the people in the separatist party would take very strong objection to. René Lévesque, in his editorial (column) very strongly attacked Mitchell Sharp and the Gazette for implying a tie-up between the two, stressing that it should be known the Parti Québécois does not approve of these tactics to achieve political independence. I think the Front de Libération du Québec has always been underground - it doesn't believe in the electoral process - it believes in other kinds of tactics in trying to achieve political ends. In a sense they've come above ground now in that one of the consequences of these events is that they have had bestowed upon them a certain kind of legitimization of public existence; the government has to treat with them and take them into account, appoint a negotiator, discuss their demands, publish their manifesto - all these things amount to a lot of achievement in terms of their public existence. So rather than go underground, they've come overground, not in the usual party sense but in a sense that their political relevance is dramatically increased.

What is the future of the Parti Québécois?

Some people will think that the events will play against the PQ and they conceivably could but it will depend on whether or not the Quebec people will associate one with the other. The PQ could come out stronger too - I could make both hypotheses, I don't know which one. They could come out stronger because of their moderate character which may seem more reasonable. Also the political ideology of the PQ and that of the FLQ is not at all similar. The PQ can be denounced by the FLQ as being a bourgeois party, while the FLQ see themselves as socialist. One of the problems for the PQ is that it has been able to keep under the one aegis diverse political thinking, from those right of center to those left of center,

largely because of the charismatic character of René Lévesque.

Do you think that Quebec, in terms of world opinion, is now aligned with the struggle of the Third World countries?

I think the aims of the FLQ have been achieved. Up until now FLQ members who were in jail were defined as common criminals and their objective was to give an international definition of themselves as political prisoners: that has definitely been achieved. The other thing they've achieved is undermining the idea that the government is a very powerful thing; the fact that after ten days the government hasn't been able to do anything, I think indicates that the FLQ is much more powerful than was previously thought; therefore its credibility as a revolutionary underground movement has increased. These objectives have been reached.

How has this affected the Quebec economy, more specifically Bourassa's 100,000 jobs?

Well, there are very few people who took that promise very seriously; it was the kind of political promise that nobody expected he could deliver. It's not clear that Bourassa could deliver even one job. The idea that you can't have investment until there is political stability has been preached so long; this is so hard to measure and a very theoretical thing, what would the investment have been if "so and so" existed - you always have a comparative basis. On that question, I have no clear cut idea because I never understood how these 100,000 jobs were to be created anyway.

How will this affect FRAP's (Front de l'Action Politique) chances in the coming municipal election?

These events are not going to help FRAP. I don't know how FRAP would have done anyway but I doubt in this climate whether FRAP will go anywhere, partly as a consequence of the events.

Doc Digs Rouby But Docks Flicks

Mr. Rouben Mamoulian comes on like a very successful dress manufacturer: not someone connected with high fashion, but with a nicely tailored line just the same. And if he has only a limited view of the human condition, it's to his credit that what's there has been well-mined and that he tells about it in a very zingy and professional way. Mention most of today's movies and he gets somewhat testy about self-indulgent excesses and sinful boredom. No, what he admires are great tales like the ones Shakespeare tells; and not a professor's Shakespeare, but his and uncle's Shakespeare.

But to the movies! To the movies! The first film shown at the festival was "Becky Sharp," and what could be better than to draw from *Vanity Fair*. Aside from the credit it deserves as the first full-length film ever to be shot in Technicolor, there is little to recommend it. It was intended, I gather, that Miriam Hopkins be energetic, willful and altogether too much in the title role. But the neurological syndrome of hyperactivity really doesn't pass for liveness and coming on with disdain really shouldn't get mixed up with being kvetchy. Mind you, Mr. Mamoulian does have that proletarian feel for how an aristocrat should act: he did cast as Becky's upperclass husband that very British, classy and fat Hollywood butler, Alan Mowbray.

"Queen Christina," that's a real classy movie. And it has Garbo. And on the night it was shown there were some

very pleasant interchanges between Mamoulian and his middle-aged fans following the film. "Tell me Mr. Mamoulian is it true that Sir Laurence Olivier was originally designated for John Gilbert's part?" Mamoulian, surprised and delighted: "How did you know that?" And, of course, a young member of today's younger audience: "You must have been young to include such daring social comment in the film." (Referring, I guess, to a passage where Garbo favourably mentions "The People"). Mamoulian, after a long, thoughtful pause: "Well, I just liked the story." It's nice to be present when different forms of earnestness clash.

Of the five other films shown, three were musicals. One, "The Gay Desperado" is a wild and funny spoof starring Nino Martini as a Mexican singer captured first by a leader of bandits who likes his singing and then captivated by a friendly kidnap victim played by Ida Lupino. Miss Lupino handles herself admirably; she's says "maahvelous" in just the right way. But what do you do with a guy like Martini who sings up a storm but talks with a squeak? Well, you do what Mamoulian did: give him the line "I can't talk, but I can sing" and let him loose.

"Summer Holiday," the second musical shown, is very much a director's film. Mr. Mamoulian makes excellent use of a technique he originated: the camera as first person. Here, through a very young and very drunk Mickey Rooney's



Hollywood director Rouben Mamoulian was at Sir George last week to talk about his films for the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art. Psychologist Dr. Edgar Zurif comments on the oldie-goldie festival.

eyes, we hazily try to focus on a rather sordid hooker who, as time gets on, gradually becomes more beautiful. And if at another point in the movie you get déjà vu re a stylized dance sequence, well Mamoulian did it first.

About "Golden Boy": you learn to accept a boxer-violinist as hero when it allows such good-looking stars as Barbara Stanwyck and William Holden the opportunity to kiss. And, if Mr. Mamoulian has the taste to cast these two romantic presences, and on top of that throw in Lee J. Cobb, he's to be congratulated. And with the addition of "The Mark of Zorro" and "Silk Stockings" (bravo Fred Astaire) that was the festival.

The print of "Silk Stockings" was so terrible that it made the colour of "Becky Sharp" look positively vibrant by comparison. And for that matter, the print of "Queen Christina" was cut in a very crucial spot by some enthusiastic censors. So what does the Conservatory do? Its shows it twice. And why? Because "Blood and Sand," although advertised and one of Mr. Mamoulian's favourites, wasn't shown: "Blood and Sand," the film that introduces Rita Hayworth with her American tits and posture.

But this carping really isn't fair when I realize how nice it was of the Conservatory to break into their schedule of Bessarabian films so that Mr. Mamoulian and his movies could come to town. ■

governors budget cut

Thursday, October 8th, Professor Mc Queen reported that the funds for student services had been cut by \$45,000 due to the reduction in the grant from Quebec from \$22 to \$17 per student. The University Council on Student Life had been able to balance the budget at the new figure by delaying the hiring of a new member of the staff of the Dean of Students Office, cutting out the Co-Curricular activities and by a variety of other smaller cuts, combined with the use of a small surplus from last year.

John Hannan was named Chairman of the Fund procurement Committee, to replace Henry Valle, who resigned as chairman but continues as a member of the committee.

Dr. Smola reported that a new security system had been installed to control access to the computer since there had been unauthorised use for counselling and other purposes. It was also reported that student computer experts had already broken the new security access code.

According to the Guidance Service, an increased number of senior students are planning to go on to graduate work.

According to CIT, there has been a marked increase in use of the internal TV network for the projection of films and other material in classrooms.

Professor French drew attention to the unsatisfactory performance of the internal mail service, and Dr. Smola said he would look into it.

The task force on fee structure has developed some general principles but is awaiting detailed statistics of enrolment before presenting a final report.

Wayne Gray reported that the ESA planned no further action with regard to the increase in evening student fees. Both he and Dr. Bordan reported on the excellent reception they had received from the Minister of Education. Mr. Gray concluded that he believed that the existence and needs of the SGWU evening students would be recognized by the government in the 1971-72 university budget.

physical plant

notice

Budget reductions have forced Physical Plant to reorganize the schedule of cleaning in the Hall and Norris Buildings. Therefore, may we draw to your attention to following:

- 1) The Hall and Norris Buildings will be cleaned only five nights a week. This cleaning includes classrooms, corridors, seminar rooms, auditoriums and lounges. In general, common areas used daily by the University Community.
- 2) Office areas will be dusted, swept or vacuumed only once a week. However, ashtrays and waste-paper baskets will be emptied five times a week. It should be noted that the once-a-week services to offices will be rotated through the five nights and will be on different days of the week, depending on the location of the office.
- 3) May we draw your attention to the fact that the floormen staff, which used to consist of twelve persons, has been reduced to six persons per shift.

Obviously, the services rendered by half the staff will be limited.

Therefore, may we call on your co-operation to only demand services of the floormen in cases of absolute urgency. They will be unable to handle demands, such as setting up classrooms, moving tables and other furniture, immediately when requested, which was customary in the past. They will also be unable to deliver messages or render similar services to the community.

We regret very much that Physical Plant has been forced to curb services in this area, however, the severe cuts in our budget have left no alternative.

May we appeal to everyone in the University Community to assist us by co-operating to avoid littering, smoking and eating in areas not provided for this purpose, and to refrain from moving furniture that is in one room to another.

the politics of abduction

Do you think that the abduction politics of Quebec will be taken up by minority groups in the United States?

Nearly everyone agrees that kidnapping is a political tool, the chances of its spreading are pretty great. It wouldn't surprise me that it would also happen in the United States. Somehow I can't help feeling that in the United States, it wouldn't have the same kind of political effect that it would have here. First of all, the response wouldn't be the same. You have a much more divided society in the States; the cleavage is much greater in racial terms so that you might think an event like this would have happened there first. But in Quebec, everything is on a much more symbolic level and everything is much more dramatic, partly because the site is smaller, partly because it is unprecedented. In the States it might have much more of an impact - I don't know; but somehow I just can't help feeling that it would just be one of another series of events and I don't think it could have the same political significance that the kidnappings have had here.

What changes in an overall sense will the abductions have on Quebec society? Will we become more of a policed state, with security guards all over the place?

Well, maybe those are the types of jobs that will be created! Guess that nobody wants that but that may be the big growth sector of the economy. Yes, people are going to be much more security conscious. The police, according to the reports, are getting many more calls than they can afford - the military are coming in to help in the process. If this will become in any way a stable kind of thing you will have a new society. I don't want to call it a police state, I think a police state is more of a political kind of process, but in Quebec we would be at the level where people are just not taking any chances.

But won't it come to that? How about Mayor Drapeau's assembly law?

Well, we are coming back to the middle ages, we're coming back to the moat society where you pull up the bridge at night and turn it down in the morning. Yes, I can see that coming and more

or less, becoming a permanent feature of our society, at least for a long time to come.

Do you see more of this kind of thing happening?

I don't know. I think in the long run this kind of tactic - unless it will be mishandled - will have less and less impact - there is here the law of diminishing returns. I don't see this as a generalized pattern over a period of years. I would expect these tactics - if they are part of a rational political plan - to be dropped by the FLQ if they didn't produce anything. I do think that events - the concept of social change that was proposed by Bourassa - that he'll get the economy going and the 100,000 jobs - to diffuse the unrest, I think this kind of thing has come to an end in the sense that people will be thinking now in terms of much more radical social change initiated by all sectors of society. Essentially, the answer to this kind of thing is the opening-up of the private corporate structure to the mass-produced CEGEP population. And that raises the essential language question once again. And this to me may spell the end of the bilingualism-biculturalism concept of the federal government - which is not going anywhere either outside or inside Quebec. These miracle men pulling 100,000 jobs, because of a quick investment are not going to do it. What is clear is that the private corporate structure is going to have to change its recruitment strategy. It has always recruited across North America and Europe and if that isn't changed drastically, there will be more of these things, at least more than the legitimate kinds of action. This is simply because you're producing (say) 400,000 people for the labour market and the traditional market where these people would usually go - that is the public and semi-public sector - the civil service, the crown corporations, the school systems - is now full. The modern kind of bureaucratic structure was built from scratch in 1945 and now it's full. And this makes the language question - the language of work - the most crucial question. And what has happened is that the restrictions in the bureaucratic ranks of the private corporations have also happened at the same time as it has in the public sector, and now there is a local surplus which has to be absorbed in the economy and to be absorbed in the private sector. But if, to do so, the young people have to learn English, well, they're not prepared to pay that price. And more troubles ahead. ■



implications

Quebec principals meet to forge cooperation

The first plenary session of the Conference of Rectors and Principals of the Universities of Quebec will be held today at Laval University. Principal John O'Brien and Vice-principal (administration) John Smola will represent Sir George Williams. Guy St. Pierre, Minister of Education, and Germain Gauthier, President of the Council of Universities, are scheduled to speak at the closing session.

The function of the Conference is to develop in conjunction with the Quebec government a system of higher education designed to give university teaching and

research a sense of purpose in tune with the needs of present-day Quebec.

Because Quebec universities receive less financial support than those in other provinces where university education develops at a growing pace, they have been encouraged to exchange and share essential resources such as teaching personnel, libraries, audio-visual equipment, computer centres and data.

Some of the projects either completed or now being studied are: a system for evaluating graduate programs; regulations

for sabbaticals and leaves of absence; coordination of faculty titles, and of credits and degrees; a study of the length and contents of courses in certain disciplines; the creation of an interuniversity organization for water research. Under way, too, is a joint study with the Ministry of Education and the Council of Universities directed towards common admission policies with special attention to teacher training. Further studies have dealt with the development of a normalised scale for faculty salaries, a system for analysing teaching costs, the use of summer schools and a central register for first-year undergraduates.

The Conference was set up to meet the growing need for university participation in the cultural, economic, social and technological development of a rapidly changing Quebec. Its first meetings were held in 1963. In May 1967 the Conference was established officially under the Companies Act.

The Conference represents the seven Quebec universities. Membership is as follows: four representatives from the multi-campus Université du Québec, three each from Laval, McGill and the Université de Montréal, two each from Sir George Williams and Sherbrooke, and one from Bishop's University of Montreal rector Roger Gaudry is president of the executive committee. ■

orthographical

Several words were unwittingly liberated in last week's ISSUES & EVENTS. Fascist, crockery, although, quod, frist should read fascist, crockery, although, queued and first respectively. We welcome queries from grammarians as well as other interested persons.



Jerry Uelsmann's "Small Wood Where I met Myself (final version)", part of the National Gallery's photographic exhibition entitled "The Photograph as Object" being held at Sir George, October 19 through November 7.

Send notices and photos of coming events to the information office, room 211 of the Norris Building, or phone 879-2867. Deadline for submission is noon Wednesday for events the following Thursday through Wednesday.

thursday 15

STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL MEDITATION SOCIETY: Introductory lecture on transcendental meditation as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at 2:30 p.m. in H-420.

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "Black Fox", 1962 Academy Award-winning documentary on the rise and fall of the Nazi party, at 7 p.m. in H-110; "The Magnificent Ambersons" (Orson Welles, 1942) at 9 p.m.; 50¢ for students, 75¢ non-students.

FRENCH 201 - SECTION TV: Channel 9 at 7 and 8:30 a.m., 10:30 p.m.

WEISSMAN GALLERY and GALLERY I: "André Bieler: 50 Years" - 66 works spanning the 72 year old artist's career; through November 7, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday.

friday 16

SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL: Meeting at 2:15 p.m. in H-1019.

E.S.A. FILM: "Beckett" with Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole at 8:30 p.m. in H-110; 99¢.

SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL MYSTICISM: Meeting at 6:15 in H-511.

saturday 17

E.S.A. FILM: "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming" with Alan Arkin at 8:30 p.m. in H-110; 99¢.

FOOTBALL: Sir George vs U of M, 2 p.m. at U of M.

SOCCER: Sir George vs R.M.C., 2 p.m. at Kingston.

monday 19

GALLERY II: National Gallery's "The Photograph as Object" through November 7.

BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES: Meeting at 2 p.m. in H-769.

GARNET SINGERS: Meeting 5-6 p.m. in H-513; everyone welcome.

SGWU/THIS WEEK

tuesday 20

FRENCH 201 - SECTION TV: Cable TV's channel 9 at 7 and 8:30 a.m., 10:30 p.m.

WORKING WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF S.G.W.U.: Meeting at noon in H-615.

IMMIGRATION: Officers will be in N-329 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

wednesday 21

SOCCER: Sir George vs Loyola, 4 p.m. at Kent Park.

STATISTICS & OPERATION RESEARCH SOCIETY: Speaker on statistical methods at 2:30 p.m. in H-1023.

IMMIGRATION: Officers will be in N-329 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

thursday 22

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: Canadian winners at the Festival of Toronto, 1970, at 7 and 9 p.m. in H-110; 50¢ for students, 75¢ non-students.

FRENCH 201 - SECTION TV: Channel 9 at 7 and 8:30 a.m., 10:30 p.m.

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